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TITLE: Short-Term Impact of a Small Group HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Intervention For African- American youth that uses hip-hop music

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BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES: The proposed pilot study aims to develop and apply a model for delivering HIV/AIDS preventive interventions to African American adolescents. The proposed model is designed to reduce high-risk HIV/AIDS behaviors through a small group methodology incorporating hip-hop music. Specific aims were (1) Formalize a protocol for HIV risk reduction using Hip hop music, (2) Conduct Focus Groups to obtain input from target population. (3) Collect baseline data and Field Test the intervention and (4) Evaluate the impact of the individual group sessions through follow-up data collection at 3 and 6 months after the intervention.

METHODS: For this study, we will use stratified random sampling techniques to select participants for the small groups. Upon completion of the intervention we propose to follow up with participants at 3 and 6 month intervals after completion of the group sessions. Participants for this study were African American middle school students from metropolitan Atlanta. A standard group intervention model will be used for the delivery of the major component of the study. Four standard 1 and a half hour group sessions were conducted. Measures for this study included: social demographic variables, sexual experience, intention to use condoms, condom use, social isolation, cultural mistrust, health self-efficacy, and sexual communication with Parents and friends. The first level data analysis will focus on revealing the descriptive characteristics of study participants. In addition, reliability analysis will be computed for all proposed instruments to be used in the study. To determine the equal nature of the intervention effects, test and non-parametric measures of association will be used. Multivariate tests for homogeneity of dispersion condition. This planned comparison analysis approach also makes use of Scheffé post hoc analysis procedures.

RESULTS: Findings note significant differences between males and females with respect to communication between fathers and mothers. Moreover, with respect to the 3-month follow-up, significant differences were revealed with respect to health self-efficacy [$F(2,47) = 9.81, p > .001$] and communication about sex and risk behaviors between participants and parents. In addition, participants reported decreased levels of social isolation with respect to baseline treatment when compared to 3-month follow-up data [$F(2,47) = 12.07, P > .001$].

CONCLUSION: The proposed pilot study has merit for reaching this population with an approach that sets the intervention on a level comprehensible to their age and cultural context. Interventions designed with culturally specific content should be used more often to reduce HIV/AIDS risk behaviors among African American Adolescents, specifically, risk that relate to communication with parents. Using hip hop music provides the opportunity for developing activities that can be used to address the specific needs that are common place among African American adolescents.

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